



# Welholme Academy

## Charging Policy

## **Introduction**

Welholme Academy recognises the valuable contribution a wide range of additional activities, including visits, clubs and residential experiences can make towards pupils' education. Our aim is that all children should have access to these opportunities and that we act sympathetically and supportively towards families who may not be able to afford to pay for extra-curricular activities for which independent providers charge. The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities. Parents have a right to know how the school determines the amount that is requested as a voluntary contribution for each educational visit or activity. The school will provide this information on request.

All of the education we provide during normal school hours is at no charge to Parents/Carers. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum. The school arranges a number of visits out of school and visits by external providers into school to enhance and broaden the school curriculum. To enable us to provide these opportunities we do ask parents/carers for contributions towards the cost. In some circumstances parents/carers may be asked to contribute towards the cost of materials for practical activities e.g. ingredients/ materials for a club.

## **Contributions**

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children the school asks parents and carers to contribute toward the cost, which is also supplemented by school funds. We will inform parents of the full cost of school visits and the supplemented cost to them.

If a parent/carer wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event and are unable to make the full contribution the school will offer the parent/carer options to pay by instalments over a short period of time and/or agree other arrangements.

If a visit or event is free of charge we will ask for a nominal contribution towards the cost of transport. For visits and events that carry an admission charge, the school will calculate the total cost including transport and ask parents/carers for reasonable contribution.

If we do not receive sufficient contributions towards a school trip or event we may have to cancel the activity.

## **Residential Visits**

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board, lodging and travel expenses. Parents will be given the option of a payment plan to spread the costs of residential visits. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to write in confidence to the Principal. Parents who can provide evidence of being in receipt of certain state benefits may be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging.

We will endeavour to provide children not taking part in a residential visit the opportunity to take part in other activities. The cost of these will be based on travel expenses, entrance to sites, material and charges for activities experienced. The Governors' policy is for the school to cover the cost of any additional teacher and support staff time necessary to lead the visit or subsequent follow up work.

### **Music Tuition**

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

Peripatetic music teachers may visit our school and may offer individual or small group lessons. They may make a charge for these lessons. The fees will be paid direct to the provider.

NELC offer the following music subsidy schemes, disadvantage scheme, shortage instrument, multiple family learners, special educational needs and higher grades. All schemes offer financial assistance towards the cost of lessons. Information about additional music tuition if available will be given to parents

### **Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. Parents and carers are informed when these lessons are to take place.

### **After School Clubs/Activities**

The school offers after school clubs and activities when possible. Clubs may be organised and run by school staff or external providers. Depending on the cost of the provision there may be a small charge for pupils to attend.

### **Nursery Charges**

The school may offer additional sessions to 3 year old children who already attend our Nursery setting. These sessions will only be offered if there is sufficient space within the setting on the requested days and will be fully chargeable. The sessions available will be reviewed termly. We will only offer full additional sessions, and these will match the current session times within the school. Charges will be levied based on the hourly rate received from the Local authority. All additional sessions must be booked and paid for in advance and nonpayment will mean that the child is unable to attend.

All children attending the Nursery for 30 hours or extending their normal day with an additional session will be charged an additional Lunch time supervision fee. This fee is to pay for Staff to Supervise the children during the lunch time period. The charge will be payable in advance and based on the hourly funding rate received by the Local authority.

### **Special Needs**

The school confirms that no pupil with special needs or disabilities will be treated any differently to that any other pupil. The school will take all reasonable steps to avoid putting children with special needs at a substantial disadvantage.

### **Fundraising**

Occasionally the school will hold fundraising events. Details of beneficiaries will be given in advance. We value parents support for these events

### **Damage/Loss to property**

In cases of wilful or malicious damage to equipment or breakages, or loss of school books on loan to children, the Principal, if necessary, may decide it right to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at the Principal's discretion.

**Letting of school premises**

The school may make its facilities available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges is determined annually by the Governing Body and details are in our separate Lettings Policy.

Reviewed April 2024

